

PORSE

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DATE: AUGUST 27, 1991

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CC: BOB JENKINS  
ROLLIE MONTAGNE *LARRY PATELLA*

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SUBJECT: ALGAE IN THE RIVER

Environmental Services has received several reports of sightings of a green substance floating near berths in the Willamette River (SRY, T-1 and T-4).

Samples were taken in the vicinity of T-1. Lab results on August 23 indicate this is an algae. Since this may be a recurring problem over the next few days or weeks, following is a description of the algae:

- o It is a bright green color, about the shade of new grass or new leaf growth.
- o It tends to float just below the surface of the water (about 2-3 inches down).
- o It does not form a sheen like oil or oil-based paint and it is odorless.
- o In the water it tends to form small, congealed balls which are similar in size and appearance to fish eggs.
- o It retains its bright color when it hits the shore or piers, but the balls turn to slime.
- o It has also been sighted coming from storm drain outfalls.

One method to confirm it is algae is to collect a sample in a bucket or on a stick and look for the fish egg appearance.

The above is provided to help describe possible occurrences in the river and to make you aware of recent sightings.

Please continue to call Environmental Services if oil products or chemical substances are suspected, or if you are unable to determine what the substance might be.

Please distribute this information to security and other staff who should be informed.

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